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Capps

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[54] GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE USING HISTORICAL LISTS WITH FIELD CLASSES

[75] Inventor: **Stephen P. Capps**, San Carlos, Calif.

[73] Assignee: **Apple Computer, Inc.**, Cupertino, Calif.

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[51] Int. Cl.⁶ **G06F 3/00; G06F 15/00**

[52] U.S. Cl. **345/352; 395/768**

[58] Field of Search 395/149, 766, 395/768-769, 155-161, 68, 76, 12, 767, 326-358, 620, 146; 345/146, 902, 173-183

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Primary Examiner—John E. Breene

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Hickman Beyer & Weaver

[57]

ABSTRACT

A data input technique for a computer that provides the user with a historical list of potential choices for the data input is described. A historical list is displayed to the user so that the user can input data by selecting an item from the historical list being displayed. The historical list contains the most recently and/or frequently used data values for the data field that the user is inputting data. Preferably, the historical list is displayed over a form also being displayed that requires the data input into its one or more of its fields. By using the historical lists a user is able to enter data with a greater ease of use than previously obtainable. The historical can also be shared between different applications that execute on the computer system concurrently or at different times. By sharing the data between applications, the historical list becomes more useful and valuable to the user and thereby further improves the ease of use of the computer system. The data input technique can be implemented numerous ways, including as a system, an apparatus, a graphical user interface, or a method, or as a computer readable medium.

26 Claims, 13 Drawing Sheets

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